

many an American practitioner, who in his pilgrimage to Vienna was privileged to listen to the eloquent discourses of the late Prof. Ultzmann, but will also, as we feel assured, meet with a grateful reception by those not thus favored.

Well versed in all branches of medicine, the author possessed the rare ability of interweaving clinical experiences with teachings gained from the study of microscopy, physiology, and pathology into a harmonious unity. Like other literary productions of Ultzmann, the present work, which consists of a compilation of the two monographs, "Ueber die Neuropathien des männlichen Geschlechtsapparates" and "Ueber Potentia generandi und Potentia coeundi," is eminently practical, yet scientific, and its style very fascinating.

The chapter on Impotence and Sterility is especially well written, and, as the author's name alone would be a guarantee, is free from all charlatanism, which, unfortunately, cannot be claimed for some recent publications by otherwise reputable authors. The translation is excellent. We can conscientiously recommend the volume to every student and practitioner in search of knowledge on the topics therein contained.

A. F. B.

SPINAL CONCUSSION: Surgically considered as a Cause of Spinal Injury, and neurologically restricted to a certain Symptom Group, for which is suggested the Designation *Erichsen's Disease*, as One Form of the Traumatic Neuroses. By S. V. Clevenger, M.D. With thirty wood engravings. 8vo, pp. iv. to 359. Philadelphia and London, 1889: F. A. Davis, Publisher.

This work, attractive in size, form, binding, and impression, is of great interest to the neurologist as well as to the general practitioner in localities in which accidents frequently occur. While those of the latter category whose scientific training is incomplete may find some of the technicalities of the book a little beyond them, they will still find in this most recent *exposé* of the subject so much that is helpful and even necessary to their success, that it becomes quasi-indispensable to them.

The author imparts much of his originality to the work by his independent appreciation of the good and also of the indifferent endeavors of other authors on spinal concussion. On more than one page he likewise justly deplores the insufficiency of medical education in our country. Those interested in the progress of that most subtle and difficult specialty, neurology, will read with discouragement and, at the same time, admit the truth of the following lines from page 25: "It is sad to reflect that the majority of medical men in our country have never seen a human spinal cord, would not recognize one if they did see it, nor would they know how to take it from its bony canal, and certainly would attempt to preserve

it in alcohol instead of Müller's fluid, and would be surprised to learn that alcohol would unfit it for microscopical examination."

After reviewing Erichsen on spinal concussion, and Page on injuries of spine and spinal cord, our author sums up recent discussions on spinal concussion, in which the most noted neurologists of the present epoch are cited, as Leyden, Westphal, Erb, Oppenheim, Spitzka, Putnam, Dana, Hammond, Seguin, Bramwell, Knapp, and others. This is followed by a chapter on Oppenheim's important work on "Traumatic Neuroses."

The chapter on the spinal column contains a summary of our latest knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the spinal cord, and is accompanied by numerous plain and colored diagrams of great use in the study of this part of the body. It also contains many aphorisms of the highest importance pertaining to the pathology of the cord and of its membranes.

The most practical part of the work resides in the four excellent chapters on the symptoms of Erichsen's disease (spinal concussion), on diagnosis, on electro diagnosis, and on differential diagnosis. They are elaborated in a masterly manner, and are full of the most necessary data for the practitioner, be he specialist or not.

The most peculiar feature of the book is found in the chapter called "Pathology," but which should more appropriately be termed "Pathogeny," since it seeks to explain the cause and origin of the disease. Our author here develops the views, original with himself and "not heretofore advanced," which impute to injuries of the spinal sympathetic nervous system the preponderating rôle in the production of the varied symptoms embraced under the head of spinal concussion. That the sympathetic nervous system reacts upon the cord through vaso-motor nerves is not to be doubted and it is easy to admit that functional disturbance of the cord could result from traumatism of certain parts of that system. We are quite prepared to accept most of the propositions he sets forth in this chapter, supported as they are by experiments and opinions of numerous authorities in neurology.

A few directions concerning treatment and some excellent medico-legal considerations form the conclusion of this very recommendable treatise, of which the many good points cause us to overlook the fact that some of its phrases are not specimens of the most classical English.

W. W. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

INJURIES AND DISEASES OF NERVES, AND THEIR SURGICAL TREATMENT. By Anthony A. Bowlby, F.R.C.S. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Publishers.

A NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY including all the words and phrases used in medicine with their proper pronunciation and definition. By George M. Gould, B.A., M.D.; P. Blakiston, Son & Co., Philadelphia: 1890.